



# Bonsai Notebook

[www.austinbonsaisociety.com](http://www.austinbonsaisociety.com)

A Publication of the Austin Bonsai Society

July 2023 vol 154

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## Calendar of Events

### July 12, 2023

- ◆ Topic: Native Trees of Texas
- ◆ Presenter: Joey McCoy
- ◆ Location: Zilker Botanical Garden
- ◆ Meeting begins at 7 pm
- ◆ Social starts at 6:30 pm

## 2023 Board of Directors

**Jonathan W.**  
President

**Roland L.**  
Vice President

**Eric B.**  
Secretary

**Gloria N.**  
Treasurer

**Simon T.**  
Member-At-Large

**Jacob K.**  
Member-At-Large

**Ever V.**  
Member-At-Large

## Volunteers

### Refreshments

*Lauren C.  
Maddi A.  
Jack V.*

*Tree Host  
Dashiell C.  
Jake G.*

# President's Message

*By Jonathan W.*

The extreme heat has been at the forefront of the past several weeks. These tiny trees in tiny pots can encounter all kinds of difficulties resulting from high temperatures and UV rays. Over my time in Texas bonsai practice, I've learned a few things. First item: If the sun on my skin feels like it is burning me... I take pause to consider how my maple tree leaves, bonsai surface roots, and clay bonsai pots may be experiencing that kind of scorching ray. Chances are if I, myself, am immediately wanting to get out of the sun and into a more dappled shade – most of my tree species are feeling the same way. Let's also not forget how the lower late afternoon rays can shoot sideways under shaded areas and bake the sides of pots. If my hand doesn't feel comfortable touching or holding my bonsai pot or the stand beneath the pot... roots are probably going through some severe distress as well. Common solutions are: shade cloth, natural shade trees, relocation in the garden, various damp cloths, sphagnum moss, and other special items like styrofoam to place over soil and pots to limit excessive sun and drying heat. My savior the past few weeks with temps over 100 degrees has been to run a supplemental sprinkler every 2x per day to cool down the whole bonsai garden and provide intermittent humidity and moisture between waterings. Also many of my trees are no longer in the sun, but relocated to dappled shade until temperatures are lower again. The evaporative cooling has provided quite a bit of heat reduction in my bonsai garden during the heat wave. Each garden is different and what works for one person may not be ideal for your trees, but it is good to try various methods to see what works best for your own collection. If you spend 9 or 10 hours away from home between waterings, it may be best to supplement with some kind of sprinkler and shadier location until the heat wave subsides. I think one year we had several weeks over 100 degrees in parts of Texas and the trees needed special consideration to endure that kind of chronic heat.

Special thanks to David Whittaker for his spectacular presentation on Seikei at our club meeting in June. He certainly went above and beyond to share his expert tips and help us explore the principles that inform a successful planting. Looking forward to seeing how the planting evolves over the next few years and congrats to the lucky winner!

Can't be said enough... Welcome, welcome, welcome, to our new members! Reach out and say hi! Keep coming to 2nd Wednesday meetings and future workshop events to get to know future friends and mentors in the bonsai art. Maybe even bring a friend or two who takes interest in bonsai to Wednesday meetings from time to time.

Also, we are always looking for folks to help set-up and take down/clean up at our monthly events so feel free to pitch in any time.

Sincerely,  
Jonathan Wood, ABS President

Bonsai quote:

" Bonsai to me: a little tree in a container that touches my soul. If it speaks to my soul much, it is bonsai art. It does not matter at all how it does it, as long as it does it." - Walter Pall, Master Bonsai Artist

# Vice President's Message

*By Roland L.*

Hi ABS,

I hope this message finds you well.

This month, we're excited to bring you our very own, Joey McCoy! He will be discussing native Texas trees for bonsai. I was fortunate to see his first iteration of this program in 2019 at the Houston Bonsai convention.

There are many species of trees that I wasn't aware of that are right here in our lovely state that we could be utilizing. Mind blown!

Joey is a pillar of knowledge and strength in our community and we're lucky to have him. I'm very excited to learn more from him.

Hope to see y'all there,

Roland

## Reminder for club membership and advertisement

### 2023 membership fee

Individual	\$35.00
Family	\$40.00
Newsletter monthly advertisements:	\$35.00
Directory advertisement:	\$11.00

You may contact [payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:payments.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com) for convenient electronic payment options (processing fee will be added).

## Get Connected!

Join our online  
discussion



## Official Website

Visit our website at  
[austinbonsaisociety.com](https://austinbonsaisociety.com)

## Facebook



Like our Facebook page  
AustinBonsaiSociety

## Twitter



Follow us on Twitter  
@ATXBonsai

## Instagram



Follow us on Instagram  
@austinbonsaisociety

## ABS Library

<https://abslibrary.libib.com/>

## YouTube



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSkNbNLd3EOYwikjNlneA>

# ABS Board Meeting Minutes

## Austin Bonsai Society Board Meeting Minutes, June 20, 2023

### Meeting Attendees:

Jonathan W.  
Roland L.  
Gloria N.  
Eric B.  
Simon T.  
Jacob K.  
Everardo V.

1. Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM.
2. **Secretary's Report** for May Board meeting reviewed and approved by a vote of 6-0
3. **Treasurer's Report** reviewed and approved.
4. **Preparation for July meeting:** Lecture by Joey McCoy on Texas Native trees.
5. **LSBF Delegate Report:** June Board Meeting at Ft. Worth seminar. Discussion of Houston convention (2024), and announcement that the 2024 convention will be affiliated with Bonsai Clubs International (BCI), so there will be bonsai enthusiasts from around the world. It will be held on the last weekend in April, 25, 26, 27 & 28, 2024. 2025 convention is scheduled for Dallas, and 2026 is Austin.
6. **TTSBE Announcements:** Volunteer report, Saturday, June 24. Fall sale is in the works.
7. **Future Items:** Planning for December holiday party. Eric B. volunteered to lead the effort. Discussion of possible Fall Color/Winter Silhouette show. Logistics for Jim Doyle visit.
10. Meeting closed at 8:33 pm.

## Bonsai Calendar – Looking Ahead

Date	Day of Week	Event Type	Artist	Topic	Location	Approx Member Cost
7/12/23	WED	Club Night - Presentation	Joey McCoy - <a href="http://hotbonsai.blogspot.com/">http://hotbonsai.blogspot.com/</a>	Native Trees of Texas - which species thrive in our climate and do well as bonsai material	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	donation table items welcome
8/9/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Gilbert Cantu <a href="https://www.littlejadedbonsai.com/">https://www.littlejadedbonsai.com/</a>	Portulacaria Afra Bonsai with a Jade expert	Zilker Botanical Garden Center 6:30PM - 9:00PM	optional tickets for demo tree / donation table items welcome
8/10/23	THUR	Workshop	Artist and Youtube Sensation Gilbert Cantu leads this member's workshop	BYOTree or purchase a jade pre-bonsai to work on from jade expert, Gilbert Cantu	MBP Bonsai 6:30PM-9:00PM 601 Kay Ln Pflugerville, TX	Cost of Tree material and supplies
9/13/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	Members bring in a tree for help / guidance.	BYOT for Guidance to push your tree to the next level	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome
9/16/23	SAT	Bonsai Auction Event	Members donate bonsai, tools, supplies, pots, stands, books etc	Fundraiser for Austin Bonsai Society - funds for Guest Artists /Lectures/Demos etc	Anderson Mill Garden Club Center Approx 10:00AM 13974 FM2769, Volente, TX 78641	Auction items needed – Thank you!!
10/11/23	WED	Club Night - Demo/ Presentation	LSBF touring Artist, Jim Doyle	Jim Doyle demonstrates techniques styling a Trident Maple Bonsai	Zilker Botanical Garden Center	donation table items welcome

## July Bonsai

by John Miller

July and August are the two most stressful months for bonsai in Texas. High temps cause watering problems and promote insect growth for many of the worst species.

Most healthy trees can take the full sun on their foliage. But the high ambient temperatures and the heating effect of the sun on the pots and soil create temperatures on the roots that they are not designed to cope with. Trees with thin leaves like the Japanese maple, *Acer Palmatum*, will probably scorch in full sun. They can also suffer from chemical burn from some fertilizers and insecticides.

I cannot give you a precise to-do list since your backyard is different from mine but you should be sure that the sun does not hit the pots directly. If you use a cover of any kind be sure that the side of the pot is protected also. A loose weave cover that allows air flow is preferable to solid paper or foil. My opinion that the reason for this is that the sun still heats the soil and there is no air flow to cool it. A solid cover over the pot and box would create an oven type enclosure. A 30% shade cloth over pines, junipers, and elms and maybe 50% over maples would be ideal. And don't forget to provide protection on the west side from the mean afternoon sun.

An ideal watering might be to water at 2pm to lower the soil temperature and allow for evaporative cooling during the afternoon. Then water again after sundown so the trees renew overnight.

A more practical approach for most would be to water heavily and completely when you get home and then again more briefly in the morning. Include misting of the foliage in the evening. While watering you might check which soil mixes give you the best conditions for your backyard.

Also keep an eye open for signs of insect problems. The spider mite will always be near. Others to look for are scale of various forms, aphids, and mealy bugs. Preventative medicine is best. By the time you see signs, the damage is already done, especially spider mites. I use a weekly organic foliar feed (1 Tablespoon each of fish emulsion, liquid kelp, molasses and 5% apple cider vinegar per gallon water) to control all these. You can use some of the other organic controls or a chemical according to label directions. Read the label directions carefully. Do not apply any oil based chemicals to buttonwoods and some others may be damaged by the oil at high temps. A hose end sprayer does not work very well, its droplets are too large and you have little control over where it goes. Use a pump sprayer with a fine spray and cover both top and bottom of leaves.

When checking the results on your plants after spraying remember that the spray usually will not remove the 'evidence' of problems. The webs will still be there after the mites are killed, the shells of the scale will be attached to the leaf or stem. These will have to be removed by hand, by a jet of water, or some other way. A soft toothbrush works good on the scale shells.

The humidity in summer varies quite a bit but when it sticks around for a few days look for fungal problems to appear, mildew being the most prevalent. Foliage spraying in the morning will usually not be a problem because it dries pretty quickly. Treat with potassium carbonate which you can find at any nursery with a decent organic section. There are several chemical sprays available too.

Usually we do not feed our trees enough. Since the mix we use has very little nutrient value, we must make up with our fertilizer practice. The best “rule” I have heard was given by Matt Ouwinga who primarily grows trident maples.

Matt’s rule:

- A. Apply organic fertilizer balls each 6 weeks. Discard old balls.
- B. Apply fish emulsion every two weeks.
- C. Apply liquid plant food on alternate weeks.

Many spring flowering plants will be setting buds for next years flowers. Azaleas will set their buds toward the end of July. If you prune tips after that you remove the new buds.

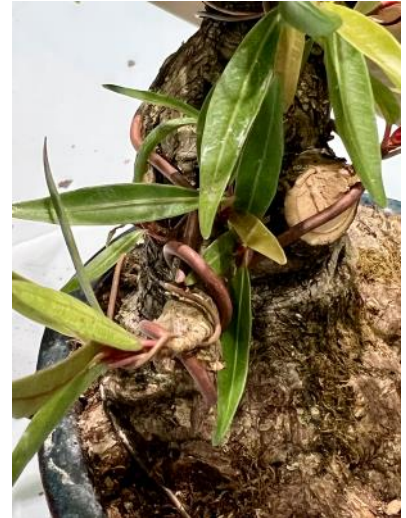
Now that night temperatures are staying above 60 degrees you should think about repotting some of the tropicals. Most tropicals do well with an annual repotting. I would emphasize to check the wires on your trees and also see that the drains are not blocked in any way. Especially check them after a rain to be sure that your pots have drained properly. Keep the tropicals trimmed as they will be growing like crazy. However, if you want flowers on those that produce on the end of the twigs, bougianvilla-pomegranate-crape myrtle, you will have to forgo the bonsai shape to let them flower. These species should be pruned more drastically before the growing season starts so they can still be in a pretty good shape.

You still need to visit the barber shop or beauty salon and get your top worked on during the summer. Your trees too keep growing and need their periodic beauty treatment. Keep the ends trimmed and the stray shoots cut out. Its not that bad when you can sit in the shade with a big lemonade and really enjoy being with your bonsai. That way you will have your tree ready for the fall show or you will be ready to enjoy it when the change of seasons give it pretty colors.



# Tiny Trees on The Trinity

Featured Artist - Suthin Sukosolvisit





## Tiny Trees on The Trinity





## Tiny Trees on The Trinity



We will see you in Houston for the  
Bonsai Clubs International / Lone Star Bonsai Federation  
**2024 International Convention**  
April 25 - 28, 2024  
Houston Marriott Westchase / 800-452-5110

HUGE Juried Exhibit -- Cash Prizes for Winners  
Outstanding and Talented Instruction  
Seminars, Workshops, & Demos  
Auctions & Raffles  
Vendors, Memorabilia and More!

**Featured Guest Artists**  
Bjorn Bjorholm  
Sergio Cuan  
Min Hsuan Lo

Find us on **Facebook** --> **Bonsai On The Bayou**  
Hosted by the Houston Bonsai Society

**BONSAI ON THE BAYOU 2024**

Reminder: 2023 CLUB MEMBERSHIP FEE AMOUNT INCREASE

Beginning in January 2023, ABS will charge an annual membership fee of \$35 for an individual and \$40/couple pursuant to the vote taken by the ABS Board on May 17, 2022, the discussion by attendees at the June 22 ABS meeting, the newsletter announcement dated June and July, 2022 and the regular meeting vote taken on July 13, 2022. Fees for electronic payments will be added to those amounts.

Memberships are annual and need to be renewed each year by the end of February in order to receive a copy of the 2023 Directory.

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### New/Renewed Members

Caleb P.  
Aaron G.

Valerie H.

Monique V.

Juan A.

Sam A.

David D.

Deighton Z.

Eric S.

Omi C.

## Recruiting Authors

With a nod of respect to John Miller, who has been diligently writing monthly columns for our newsletter, we would also like to take this time to invite interested members with knowledge and experiences of local Austin conditions to write articles for beginners and potential aspirants keen on raising bonsai. The Bonsai Notebook is looking for a new voice to author a column providing helpful reminders and tips dedicated to caring for bonsai. Be it a monthly routine or winter procedures, we'd like to welcome new perspectives and experiences to be shared in this newsletter. If interested, please contact: [webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com](mailto:webmaster.austinbonsaisociety@gmail.com).

A warm thank you to John Miller for writing the latest columns. Even I, as the editor, may have taken these last months for granted and have been reminded that life is a charming companion that deserves to be appreciated every day. Thank you for your helpful words!

## Advertisements



**BRITE IDEAS**

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HYDROPONICS & ORGANICS**

[Http://www.bihydro.com](http://www.bihydro.com)  
Owner: Troy Smith

12110 Menchaca Rd. Ste.103 Austin, TX 78748 (512)444-2100	14611 Burnet Rd #110 Austin, TX 78758 (512)459-4353
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Importers, Retail & Wholesale  
Your source for:  
High quality Yagimitsu & Ryukoh tools  
Organic Bonsai Fertilizers  
Imported and Domestic Trees  
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ph: 512-202-3403  
-mail: mbpbonsai@suddenlink.net  
601 Kay Lane  
Pflugerville, TX 78660  
(call for directions)

  
**Hawk Eye**  
*Bonsai*



# Bonsai Notebook

Austin Bonsai Society  
P.O. Box 340474  
Austin, Texas 78734



## Austin Bonsai Society

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Austin, TX 78734



## About Us

The Austin Bonsai Society is a nonprofit organization which exists to help in providing guidance and education for individuals in their desire to learn and expand their knowledge and skill in the arts of bonsai.

The Society holds regular meetings, twelve months a year, on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social period begins at 7:00 pm, followed by our program at 7:30 pm. Normally, unless announced otherwise, these meetings are held in the Zilker Garden Center building, located on Barton Springs Road in Zilker Park, Austin, Texas. We offer a monthly program of interest to the general membership.

The cost of membership is presently only \$32.50 for an individual and \$37.50 for a family membership. For additional information, contact the Austin Bonsai Society at P.O. Box 340474, Austin, TX 78734.